THE FEDERAL BUDGET IN FISCAL YEAR 2020

A CLOSER LOOK AT DISCRETIONARY SPENDING



Spending that lawmakers control annually through appropriation acts

AT A GLANCE



the federal

government

in **2020**

\$0.9 Trillion

Outlays for nondefense programs, which accounted for more than half of the discretionary total, in 2020 **7.8**% of GDP

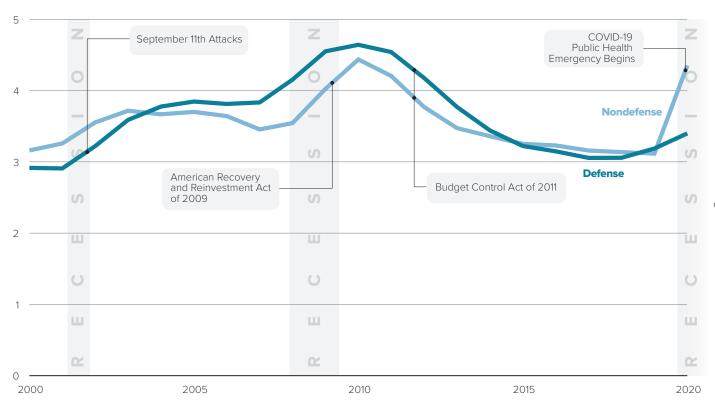
Discretionary outlays in **2020**



Average discretionary outlays between **2000** and **2019**

TRENDS IN **DISCRETIONARY** SPENDING

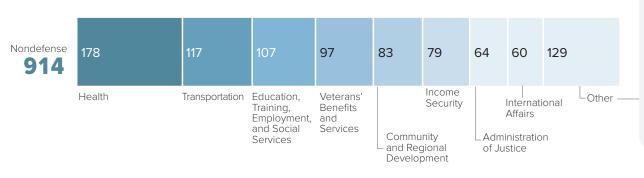
Outlays, as a Percentage of Gross Domestic Product



The first month of the most recent recession was March 2020.

DISCRETIONARY SPENDING IN 2020

Billions of Dollars



Includes outlays for natural resources and the environment; general science, space, and technology; general government; agriculture; administrative costs of Medicare and Social Security; energy; and commerce and housing credit programs

